

Dear Superintendent,

The Kentucky Department of Education has partnered with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) to bring a researched based professional development program to Kentucky to train and support highly effective educational leaders to advance the pace of reform in our state. This program is called LEAD-Kentucky

The research is clear and unambiguous – if you want to create a great school, you need a strong principal. Researchers also believe that strong leadership is a critical component in turning around low-performing schools. Since we wanted the selected program to be of the highest quality and to have an immediate impact on as many schools as possible, we partnered with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) in April 2013 to start training an initial cadre of Kentucky educators.

LEAD-KY focuses on enhancing the leadership skills of current principals and district leaders involved in supporting schools. It will also be a tool used to develop Kentucky's aspiring principals. We chose this program as the engine for LEAD-Kentucky for several important reasons:

- ✓ NISL has a track record of success – there are several large-scale evaluations of the program that have found that schools led by NISL graduates increase student learning faster than comparable schools.
- ✓ NISL is focused on helping educators to become instructional leaders by increasing their leadership skills, subject area knowledge, and ability to implement best practices.
- ✓ NISL utilizes best practices in adult learning from education, business and the military to increase participant learning including computer simulations, case studies, and job embedded practices.

The Kentucky Department of Education will be offering regional trainings across the state beginning in the summer of 2016. This summer will begin our third year for KDE to facilitate this very important work. To date, we have trained over 250 educators (district administrators, principals, assistant principals, teacher leaders, etc.) This work will be facilitated by Kentucky educators. Our facilitators are seasoned and experienced with the NISL Executive Development Program and have a vast level of experience working with schools and districts. In order to allow your districts to participate in this exciting opportunity at a convenient location we encourage you to contact KDE quickly. Our space is limited and planning has begun for the 2016-2017 school year. Please send an email expressing your interest and your contact information to kdenisl@education.ky.gov.

Sincerely,

Jason Radford

Jason Radford, Ed.D.
Kentucky Department of Education
Office of Next Generation Schools & Districts
Acting Director, Division of Consolidated Plans & Audits
District 180